

Wycombe triumph in hectic finish after early shock

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WAND. 3 : TOOTING & MIT. 1

WYCOMBE Wanderers conceded a goal in the first five minutes of their Isthmian League game against fast-moving Tooting and Mitcham, but came back strongly in the second half to win 3-1.

Wycombe Wanderers: Patrick; Beck, Lewis; D. Thomas, Roystone, Gale; Worley, J. Thomas, Merrick, Horseman, Hodges.

Tooting and Mitcham: Pearson; Holder, Banbridge; Wigham, Robertson, Belger; Agar, Granger, Browning, Norcott, Charman.

Referee: Mr. A. W. Hancock (Camberwell).

The Tooting forwards, inspired by some forceful raids by right winger Agar, looked dangerous from the outset. Five minutes from the start COLIN NORCOTT put them ahead with a crisp shot close in from Agar's cross.

Prominent on the left wing too was a former Wycombe star, Tony Charman, who gave his ex-colleagues Thomas and Beck plenty to think about on the left wing.

Ten minutes later, however, Wycombe missed a great chance to level the scores when Beck shot wide after John Thomas, Dave's brother, chasing a through pass on his own, was fouled in the penalty area.

In his first senior game at centre forward, Les Merrick played quite well without a great deal of support.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 0, Tooting 1.

A brilliant goal equalised for Wycombe two minutes after the resumption. GALE took a neat pass from Worley and ran through on his own to beat Pearson with a great long range ground shot.

PATRICK INJURED

A few minutes later the Wanderers goalkeeper, Patrick, was injured making a daring save from Browning and had to be carried off. Horseman taking his place in goal.

When Patrick was able to resume six minutes later, he went on to the left wing, and as the Wanderers attacked with great gusto he almost found the mark with a plucky effort.

Roystone too was unlucky with a long range drive which Pearson did well to save.

Excitement mounted in the last 15 minutes as a revitalised Wycombe mounted a series of hot attacks for the winner, and 12 minutes before the end Hodges put them ahead after John Thomas had forced the goalkeeper to drop a corner kick.

In injury time HODGES scored a third for Wycombe.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WAND	3
TOOTING	1

WYCOMBE HIT BACK BOLDLY

Wycombe 3 Tooting 1

A GOAL down in five minutes against powerful Tooting and Mitcham, Wycombe Wanderers missed a penalty, had their goalkeeper knocked out, yet managed to stage a tremendous come-back. Two goals in the last 12 minutes gained them the Isthmian League points.

Inspired by the bold tactics of Mick Browning and Roy Agar in a speedy attack, Tooting dictated the play in the first half. Inside left Colin Norcott had scored a shock opening goal.

When Wycombe's John Beck shot wide with a penalty kick in the 15th minute, the home forwards faded.

Left-half Gale scored a brilliant goal within two minutes of the second half to put Wycombe dramatically back in the game. Then goalkeeper Phil Patrick was knocked out in making a daring save at the feet of Browning and was carried off.

Horseman, the 22-year-old inside-left, took Patrick's place, and while he gallantly defied all the Tooting attacks the home forwards recovered so well that they monopolised the play towards the end.

Patrick returned on the left wing and almost claimed the winner himself before, in an exciting climax, Hodges put Wycombe ahead in the 78th minute. Reserve John Thomas added another goal in injury time.